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The Highlander

Thursday **December 2 2021** | Issue 518

INSIDE: JANE VAN NOOD REMEMBERED PAGE 20

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QUITE THE SHINDIG:

Wendy Kurtz (Robin Duke) drapes Penelope (Victoria Bingham) with a 'pashmona' during the Highlands Christmas Shindig at the Haliburton Legion Nov. 27. The fundraiser for Fuel of Warmth brought in \$43,000. See more photos on page 23. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Roberts, Kennedy cleared of conflict

By Mike Baker

Dysart's top two elected officials have been given the green light to continue participating in talks over the proposed Places for People affordable housing development slated for Wallings Road.

Mayor Andrea Roberts and deputy mayor Pat Kennedy were each accused of having a conflict of interest by area resident Andy Muirhead who, in a recent letter submitted to council, asked that they recuse themselves from any future discussion of, and decision on the prospective development.

Muirhead's claims stem from the fact

that Roberts resides on nearby Halbiem Crescent and is a member of the Haliburton By The Lake Property Owners' Association, whose president Tim Negus appeared before council Nov. 23 to voice his group's collective opposition to the Places for People project. Kennedy has family who reside in the neighbourhood.

The project has hit something of a snag in recent months, with the County expressing concern over the ability of the existing Wallings Road/CR 21 intersection to handle what would be a massively increased flow of traffic. It has been suggested that a go-between road connecting Wallings and

Halbiem could alleviate those concerns.

Muirhead indicated that since Roberts and Kennedy have "actual or clearly apparent conflicts surrounding the consideration of traffic routing" at the location, that they couldn't be trusted to make an impartial decision. He went as far as to suggest that council, influenced by Roberts and Kennedy, had deliberately avoided properly discussing a potential Wallings/Halbiem thoroughfare – something he believes would be the "safer and more reasonable option."

While an official complaint has not been submitted, Roberts and Kennedy took

it upon themselves to reach out to the municipality's integrity commissioner, Harold Elston, earlier this month to get his input on the situation.

"Deputy mayor Kennedy and I felt it best to face the allegations head-on," Roberts said.

In her correspondence with Elston, Roberts asked three questions: if, as a member of the HBTL property owners' association she was in a direct or indirect conflict when the president appeared as a delegation to express the group's opposition to the development; does the Municipal

Continued **'Councillors'** on page 2

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Highlander news

Councillors to debate project

Continued from page 1

Conflict of Interest Act have an exemption where the interest of the general public overrides any direct or in direct conflict; and does she have a conflict over discussions regarding the intersections of Wallings/CR 21 and Halbiem/CR 21.

Elston found that, since HBTL does not have a direct pecuniary interest (financial) in the matter, Roberts did not have a conflict.

In Kennedy's case, he asked Elston if, since his daughter resides in the HBTL subdivision and may be affected by decisions made concerning this project, he is in a direct or indirect conflict pertaining to potential changes to the road access, or the project in general. Elston determined he was not.

"As I understand it, your daughter's home is not a competing development site, nor is it adjacent to the property that Places for People would like to purchase and develop ... Their property is at a considerable distance from the site and will not be impacted in any way by the proposed development. Accordingly, your daughter does not have a direct pecuniary interest and, therefore, you have no deemed direct pecuniary interest," Elston wrote. "Based on what you have told me ... you may participate in these matters without fear of contravening the [municipal] code."

COUNTY NEWS

Vaccination policy deferred

After nearly an hour of debate, County council was unable to finalize a corporate vaccination policy at its Nov. 24 meeting.

CAO Mike Rutter presented a draft policy applying to councillors, committee and board members, staff, volunteers and contractors.

"It would require everyone who holds those positions to provide proof of being fully vaccinated," Rutter said. He added the province allows "very limited opportunity" for exemptions, including for medical and human rights' reasons.

He said those affected would be given 30 days to provide full proof of vaccination (14 days after the second dose). If not compliant, they would need to get testing at their own time and expense once a week for 45 days. After that, employees would be placed on unpaid leaves of absence until complying.

For paramedics, he said they now have to provide a negative test at the beginning of every shift if not vaccinated.

Rutter said the policy would be reviewed on a regular basis.

Councillors had a number of questions and concerns. For example, they asked

what would happen if a councillor was non-compliant since they are elected officials and not employees or contractors and are required to attend meetings. Rutter was asked to get a legal opinion. They also wanted stronger language about reviewing the policy. Others said the Ontario Human Rights Commission has said employers should pay for tests. And others expressed concern about staff being on long-term leave and the potential for job losses.

In the end, councillors agreed that the policy should require proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test with an opinion on councillors still to come. They'll also need to be prepared to talk about possible termination, Warden Liz Danielsen said.

The item has been deferred to the next meeting.

Danielsen to be returned as warden

Danielsen is returning as County warden.

She was the only County councillor to put their name forward in advance of the close of nominations Nov. 15.

It will be her fourth consecutive year as warden.

There will be a virtual acclamation and swearing-in ceremony Dec. 14.

Danielsen told *The Highlander*, "I'm so pleased to be able to finish off the term. Four years in a row is a record so kind of tickled about that."

New physician recruiter hired

It was announced that Wendy Welch is the new physician recruiter at the County.

Rutter said she began the week of Nov. 15.

"I think she's in the process of learning the program that exists currently and meeting all of the various stakeholders," he said. "We're very excited to have Wendy with us and we really expect continued good things."

Welch is replacing Cheryl Kennedy.

Rutter said Kennedy "just did a fabulous job and we owe her a great debt for all that she did putting this program in place and creating such a successful foundation."

Danielsen added that Kennedy is working with Welch to "get her feet solidly on the ground and get started on recruitment issues." (*County news compiled by Lisa Gervais*.)

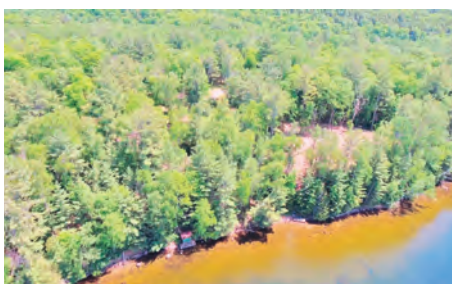


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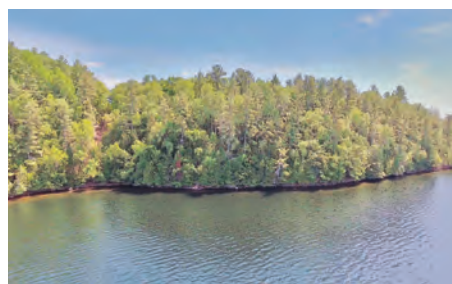
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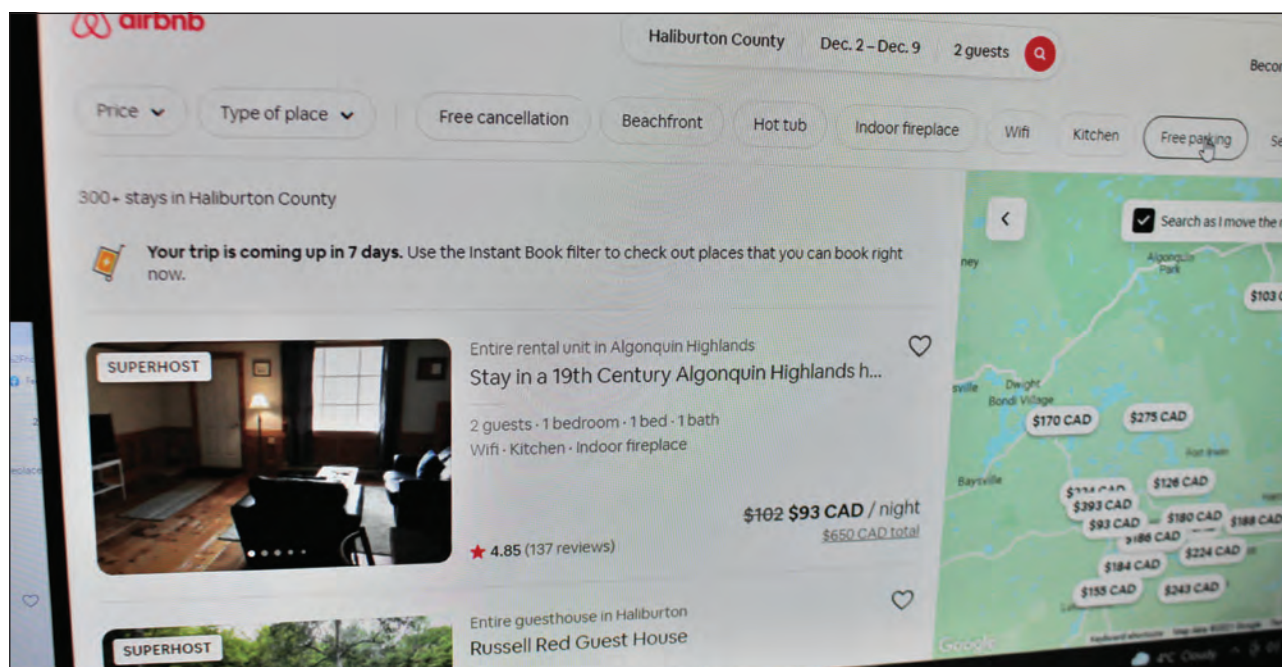
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Airbnb is just one platform used by local short-term renters. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

County awards RFP for short-term rental review

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County council has selected one of the firms from its shoreline preservation bylaw process to now spearhead its short-term rentals' review.

The project has been awarded to J.L. Richards and Associates at a cost of \$55,235.55 plus taxes. The County will fund half the cost and the lower-tier governments the other half.

On July 28, council approved a request for proposals for consulting services to assist in the review and consultation for the County.

Director of planning, Steve Stone, in a report to the Nov. 24 meeting, said the plan is to do a community survey, technical literature review, analysis of context, and public consultation - leading to the development of short-term rental policies and regulations specific to the Highlands.

A technical literature review means finding and summarizing best practises for protecting the public's quality of life with short-term rentals. It includes a look at what has recently been published by accredited land use policy and regulatory specialists.

Analysis of context means providing

a list of municipalities in the province that have policies and regulations. It will outline the legislative authority under which the policies and regulations have been enacted and the prohibitions, exemptions and other requirements.

"The Council for the County of Haliburton has identified the protection of its settlement and lake side neighbourhoods as a significant policy area within this term of their Council," Stone said. "It is expected that upon completion of the objectives outlined ... the successful candidate/firm will then be in a position to guide the development of a final Short-Term Rental policy and regulations to be considered for implementation by the County of Haliburton."

The County received one other bid, from Granicus.

However, Stone said J.L. Richards Ltd.'s submission stood out for a number of reasons, including their overall approach to the project, an engagement plan with stakeholders that will be tailored to meaningfully secure input and buy-in from the local community, completion of similar projects, experience and

qualifications of project team and previous experience with small and rural municipalities.

Stone said the work will be done in the first quarter of 2022 and will be completed by the end of March.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt commented that the analysis of context requirement could be problematic since they tried that with the shoreline preservation bylaw.

"And we know that the response to that was that inquiries were made to other municipalities, to provide context about their own shoreline work, and we were told that nobody called them [the consultants] back.

"So, I would just hope that knowing that, going into this process, that we would require a little bit more ... it seems strange to put in an RFP and have the proponent come back and say we're going to check with everybody. I just don't want to hear at the other end that they checked and nobody called them back.

"I think the local comparators are vital in these kinds of things. It was missing from the shoreline preservation bylaw and I don't want to see the same piece missing here."

Council warms to free viewing area access

By Sam Gillett

The public will now have free access to the upper warm viewing area at the Minden Arena.

Previously, the second floor viewing spot was only accessible when rented.

At a Nov. 25 meeting, council voted to halt fees for use of the viewing area, and for staff to provide an overview of arena rental fees.

"I just can't imagine why we have a \$14 million arena, and it's not provided to people to watch hockey," said deputy mayor Lisa Schell. "I had no idea that we would be charging Highland Storm to use the warm viewing area when parents and grandparents watch their kids."

Director of community services, Craig Belfry, said that eliminating all fees to rent the room would result in a decrease of revenue: currently, the cost to user groups is \$77 for four hours.

Schell and Coun. Bob Carter said the room could still be rented to other groups, but provided free of charge to the skating club and Highland Storm, who apart from the Haliburton County Huskies, use the rinks most often.

"The viewing area should be given to them as if it was rented for zero dollars," said Carter. "Rather than just changing the bylaw to make it wide open, we include that in their contract and still have it available for rental at other times."

Coun. Jennifer Hughey said it could be a way to show support to community organizations such as the Highland Storm.

"It's a sign of good faith we want to see them in that facility."

Staff will provide an overview of the facility's rental charges for final council review at an upcoming meeting.

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Mental health experts cite lack of transportation as a key concern in access to mental health services. *File.*

Mobile clinics to bridge mental health gap

By Sam Gillett

The Ontario government has announced new funding for mobile mental health clinics in Haliburton.

Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, said the service is aimed at bridging the gaps in rural mental health access.

“Through our government’s Roadmap to Wellness we are committed to breaking down barriers to accessing high-quality mental health and addictions services where and when it’s needed,” she said in an Oct. 28 press release.

The mobile clinic will be a retrofitted bus, visiting areas around the Haliburton region, open to drop-in addictions support, counselling and more.

Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Haliburton region, said the program is a “good first step.”

“Access to services is probably the greatest hurdle for people to get access to ongoing mental health supports,” he said.

That access is severely limited in Haliburton compared to other regions in Ontario.

“There are pockets of towns and communities that are so spread out. It’s hard to get accessible care: you can’t just hop on the bus,” said Veitch.

The funding comes as part of the Province’s Roadmap to Wellness plan, which Premier Doug Ford has said aims to connect more people to addictions and mental health services.

“Bringing mental health and addictions supports and services directly to the people who need them is another way our government is breaking down barriers and making these important services readily available,” said MPP Laurie Scott. “This mobile clinic will support individuals and families in the CMHA-HKPR catchment area and help address gaps in mental health and addictions care.”

The recent funding announcements counter previous decisions, such as in 2018 when Ford’s government cut \$330 million from mental health services. In 2020, Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) said the government’s budget, which did not include any additional funds for mental health supports, fell “much too short of the significant investments needed.”

While it said recent funding announcements, such as the mobile addictions and mental health treatment centers, are welcomed, the AMHO said funding “doesn’t go far enough.”

Local improvements needed

Some who work locally in the mental health field say the provincial government needs to do far more to address the Highlands’ mental health issues.

“Primary care, peer support work and help in both mental health and substance use: there’s still a big gap between what’s

needed and what’s there,” said Marg Cox, executive director of Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents.

“What I would say are some of the big gaps, is the government has invested heavily in COVID responses, but we really have a pandemic of mental health and substance use issues going on in the County.”

Multiple groups across Ontario have raised the alarm over spikes in opioid-related deaths. The HKPR district health unit issued a press release in August outlining the threat.

“We are issuing this alert to make community members aware that more drug overdoses are occurring in Haliburton County and remind everyone to be extra vigilant,” said Catherine MacDonald, a registered nurse and substances and harm reduction coordinator with the health unit. The HKPR health unit reported 30 suspected opioid overdoses in the region in November.

Mental illnesses such as addiction coincide with a drug supply tainted by highly toxic substances such as fentanyl, which has caused nearly 23,000 deaths in Canada since 2016.

Communities such as Peterborough have implemented safe consumption sites, places where people who use injection drugs can do so under supervision.

In Haliburton, the HHHS offers multiple crisis interventions, counselling and treatment, and a Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic as well as psychiatric intervention.

HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer said, “We have certainly seen a rise in requests for service related to circumstances of the pandemic, as people face employment-related issues, loss of housing, and relationship concerns that are not unique to our community.”

She added that mental health service referrals “have also become more complex and are increasing to align with the population growth in our region.”

She said her teams see transportation as a barrier to care.

“While it impacts many aspects of life in the Highlands, a lack of transportation for people trying to access mental health services continues to be a significant challenge,” she said.

Nancy Brownsberger, a registered social service worker and owner of Grow Optimism Consultants in Eagle Lake, agrees that in Haliburton, access remains a top challenge.

“In a community that is remote and as large as ours, it means you’re going to the emergency room for those supports,” she said.

“I think the risks are increased marginalization, increased poverty, and increased mental illness that goes untreated. It increases the risk of suicidal ideation, it increases the risk of disconnection,” she said.

It’s an issue that she believes deserves all of Haliburton’s attention.

“Our communities are only as strong as our most marginalized members,” she said.

Highlander news



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Carter running for Minden Hills mayor

By Lisa Gervais

Following Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin's announcement he won't be running for mayor again in 2022, Ward 1 Coun. Bob Carter told *The Highlander* he's vying for the top seat on council.

Carter said after Devolin declared his intentions, a number of people asked him if he was interested.

"I just decided that I didn't want to try to mislead people or put people off. I should just decide what it is I want to do."

He said his motivation has not changed since he initially ran and was successfully elected in 2018. For him, the big issues are housing and the environment as, "without these lakes, we have no reason to get people to come here for our economy."

He also touched on change, saying it appears to be happening faster or differently due to population growth locally, climate, the pandemic, and a trend that is seeing municipalities generally get less provincial and federal support.

"I want to be part of the team that steers that change, steers Minden successfully through this changing environment."

He said infrastructure is Minden Hills' greatest challenge, using roads as an example.

"We're in this situation where people want to borrow money for annual road repairs and upgrades. I know there's a certain amount that has to be spent on roads but

I think we need to have plans. The way budgeting is done at the municipal level, you're almost looking at one year and you don't know what's coming next and when you're going to be dropping off the edge of the cliff."

He said long-term planning is needed to keep taxes at a reasonable level.

Economic development is also important, the councillor said, but barriers to attracting new business include finding staff and housing for those staff. Another hurdle is attracting service providers, including contractors.

He sits on Minden's housing task force and the KLH Housing Corp. and is looking into getting involved with Habitat for Humanity. He said housing is a complex issue. However, he believes the move to multi-unit development is needed. He added as a driver for Meals on Wheels, he's encountered elderly singles living in three-bedroom homes on rural roads. He said if they could find housing in town, they could move, freeing up housing stock for families. He said another challenge is the cost for housing when not on municipal sewer or water.

But he believes Minden Hills council is very supportive of housing "and would move heaven and earth to get some housing developments in here."

Carter grew up in inner city Montreal, moving to rural Ontario in the 1980s. Now retired, the Concordia and



Coun. Bob Carter during an in-person meeting. *File.*

McGill University graduate's work life involved computer science and business administration.

"I worked mostly in heavy industries, big corporations, multi-nationals, travelled extensively, mostly doing IT and engineering work on big projects and worked as a chief information officer for most of my career and senior management, projects, strategy," he said.

He said he's learned in the past three years that finances and accounting are different in

local government versus industry and that it takes a lot of time to get anything done.

However, he said councillors are at the helm of multi-million-dollar businesses.

"If you fail, or if you don't succeed, the taxpayers are on the hook to bail you out. It's unlike any other type of business in that regard. You always have to be thinking about 'what are we doing here and what is this going to mean for the taxpayers, not only today, but the year after, and the year after, and the year after'."

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Highlander news

Capital budget won't tax HE ratepayers

By Sam Gillett

Any 2022 tax hike likely won't come from Highlands East's capital budget.

After Nov. 23 capital budget presentations, the net capital budget for 2022 sits at over \$2.2 million, \$98,685 higher than 2021. However, CAO Shannon Hunter said funding for Herlihey Park renovations are still to come, putting the budget around a zero per cent increase.

The capital budget includes purchases, renovations and other large spending projects. Hunter estimated the township's operating budget will rise.

Roads and waste

Highlands East's road network is estimated to need almost \$1.1 million, after factoring in more than \$600,000 in government grants. That's \$35,180 higher than its 2021 budget request.

It includes road resurfacing, roadside brushing and more than \$1 million towards the South Wilberforce bridge replacement.

The proposed budget also includes funds for a roof repair at the municipal garage and other building renovations. A large road grader and a new tractor are also in the budget.

"We can use it for several different purposes," operations manager Brett Charboneau said.

Charboneau said there's a need for \$20,000 in landfill enhancements and equipment replacements, with 50 per cent funded by the township's reserve fund.

Building and recreation

The township's building department has submitted a capital budget \$30,000 less than its 2021 request. It includes funds to replace its aging 2012 GMC Terrain SUV. The building department will also request building renovations, and permitting software to deal with a major increase in permit applications.

The building department has seen nearly \$40 million in new build values this year.

Parks, recreation and facilities will need \$11,000 less in capital funds than last year, said Jim Alden, property supervisor.

Alden said the department is ready to release another tender for extensive renovations to the Cardiff pool changeroom. A previous request for proposals didn't receive any bids. "Hopefully we do have some bites in it," Alden said.

The project is estimated to cost \$209,000.

"It's not heated, not insulated. That over \$200,000 figure: is that based on some kind of architectural plan?" asked Coun. Cam McKenzie.

CAO Hunter said since the changeroom currently has no foundation, the estimate includes structural work and engineering plans.

"In order to even meet building requirements, it needs a full foundation, which added approximately \$30-40,000 onto the total," she said.

That cost also includes a new plumbing system. Alden proposed that \$105,178 of the township's reserve be used.

There's also maintenance to the Keith Tallman arena, and a new fridge for the



The township's capital budget includes funding for a future municipal office. *File.*

Highland Grove community centre, as well as \$395,676 for Herlihey Park renovations, partially funded by the reserve. That project was initially expected to wrap up in 2022.

Coun. Cec Ryall asked about creating a new fund, specifically for trail renovations.

"We do make minor mention to projects related to trails," said Ryall. He said a specific trails fund could help ensure better trail maintenance so council can "see what projects are being done."

Fire and environment

Highlands East's fire department is lobbying for \$432,500, an \$85,000 increase over the department's 2021 budget. That includes fire hall renovations and \$269,000 sent into the township's reserve funds. That will be used in future equipment purchases.

Highlands East's environmental department is requesting the purchase of

a 2014 pickup truck, as well as funding for service connections in Wilberforce and new pumps at the Monck Road sewage pumphouse. The net capital spending would be \$220,000, an \$83,900 bump over 2021.

Administration

The administration budget sits at \$244,100, \$63,800 less than the department's 2021 request.

Highlands East is set to transfer \$175,000 into municipal reserves, as it has for the last four years, to eventually fund new municipal buildings. Hunter said the results of the County's service delivery review and the fact there is no suggested location mean the project still hasn't begun.

The township will draw \$48,000 from its reserves to fund the 2022 election.

INFORMATION PAGE

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A Message from the Fire Department

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The Do's:

- Take it slow and stretch before you begin
- Shovel fresh powdery snow, it's lighter.
- Push rather than lift. If you lift use a small shovel or partially fill the shovel and lift with your legs
- Take frequent breaks; pay attention to how your body feels

The Don'ts:

- Shovel after eating or while smoking
- Work to the point of exhaustion
- Shovel without your Doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease
- Shovel before or after having a heavy meal

Learn the heart attack warning signs for men and women and listen to your body. If you are not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out by telling a doctor about your symptoms. Minutes matter! Call 911.

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Notice – 2022 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2022 Budget deliberations during its Regular Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for December 9, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
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Winter Sand for Residents

Winter sand will be made available in the curling club parking lot throughout the winter season. Please note, limited quantities are provided. Material is available on a first-come-first-served basis. A maximum of one 5-gallon pail of sand may be taken per person. The sand pile is not for commercial use.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

December 9
Regular Council Meeting
2nd Draft Budget Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Highlander news

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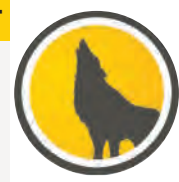
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MINDEN-HALIBURTON
HEARING SERVICE

Maple Lake United Church at a crossroads

By Lisa Gervais

Maple Lake United Church has put out an SOS.

Rev. Max Ward wrote local media last week to say, "Our little Maple Lake United Church is in trouble and is reaching out to the community."

He provided correspondence that was sent Nov. 25 to members, adherents and friends of the church.

"We are hopeful that with a bit of awareness, the church might be able to continue for many years to come into the future but the current outlook isn't good without an infusion of more people to help with the volunteer work and financial support needed to operate the church," Ward said.

A few years ago, Zion United Church, Minden United Church and Maple Lake United Church were in talks to amalgamate. Maple Lake opted out at that time but Minden and Zion did amalgamate and the result is Highland Hills United Church in Minden. The Zion church and property were sold and have a new life in the community as a bakery and antique shop.

In the Nov. 25 correspondence, written by Ward, Larry Giles, Deloris Baily and Beverly Upton, they said that after church Nov. 21, a congregational meeting was held to discuss the future of the Hwy. 118 and Stanhope Airport Road house of worship, erected in 1901.

They said they have a small and mostly elderly congregation and have struggled

to keep up with the physical and financial demands.

For many years, they've relied on fundraising to fill the gap between what the congregation offers in donations and the actual cost to operate the church.

"Then COVID-19 came along. COVID-19 restrictions have been extremely difficult for everyone. For the church, the restrictions continue to prevent us from undertaking many of the fundraisers in a safe way that we normally would have enjoyed."

On top of that, they say many of their members can't offer to organize and carry out the long hours standing to put on a dinner, as an example.

"The meeting held last Sunday was to make us all aware of the challenges, to ask for help and pray for guidance. Many memories were shared and even some tears shed with the thought of what will happen to the church should we not be able to continue as before and have to close the building permanently."

The letter is intended to encourage people to go to worship and contribute physically and financially.

"Spread the word to your friends and neighbours that Maple Lake UC is in trouble. Your presence is sorely missed on Sundays. We understand that some may not feel comfortable being in church at this time due to COVID-19. Also, we know that others now have trouble getting to church due to declining health. We understand and think of you frequently. Nevertheless,



Rev. Max Ward at Maple Lake United Church. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

some tough decisions need to be made very soon."

On Jan. 30, 2022, after the worship service, they are scheduled to have their annual meeting. It will include a discussion and a decision regarding the future.

The letter cited three options: continue on with much-needed additional support (examples: increased attendance at worship, increases in offering and fundraising); permanently close the building and amalgamate the congregation with another United Church congregation, such as Highland Hills United Church, or permanently close the building and disband

the congregation encouraging members and adherents to attend the church of their choice.

"Sadly, the half dozen regular members that attend worship are very discouraged and fearful that we cannot continue. The expenses of the church continue despite COVID-19 restrictions and lower church attendance."

Ward said, "One can only guess what would happen to Maple Lake United Church if the church members cannot continue to operate it as a church. During this Advent season of hope, we are hoping for a hopeful story."

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

No in-person meetings until 2022

Council voted to continue virtual meetings until at least February 2022. Staff report that due to rising COVID-19 case counts the matter will be discussed at a Jan. 28 meeting.

"We'll have an idea of the after Christmas numbers in the community, and make a recommendation at that time," CAO Trisha McKibbin told council at a Nov. 25 meeting.

"I think we're in a new world," said Mayor Brent Devolin. "I think the community wants to pay attention to what we're doing or not doing, so we need to do whatever we can do to facilitate that."

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said she is excited to be back to in-person meetings however worried that meeting with masks would limit accessibility for viewers.

A draft plan presented by McKibbin suggests councillors will be joined by two clerks and IT support. All other department heads will join via Zoom.

Boardwalk needs work

The Minden boardwalk is "not in great shape," said director of community services Craig Belfry.

While it is closed for the season, Belfry reported damage due to machines such as ATVs riding on the wooden structure.

Plywood patches, applied to holes, pose a risk to walkers, he said. "It's causing a lot of trip hazards, it's become more plywood than boardwalk."

Barricades blocking the boardwalk have been thrown into surrounding marsh areas.

Belfry said the township has received a provincial grant to fund some renovations in the Spring.

"As part of the grant we're going to look at gates going on to the boardwalk and look at seasonal closures."

Fire service in demand

Minden Hills' fire department saw a 54 per cent jump in call volume in October.

This year, the service responded to 334 calls to date, up from 244 calls last year.

"At this call volume it's going to wear those people out," said chief Nelson Johnson. He explained a new duty crew system to council, in the hopes of combating fatigue for volunteer firefighters.

"We are busy: we have 20 per cent of our staff doing 80 per cent of our jobs," he said.

In the new system, firefighters will be assigned to seven day on-call duty crew,



Minden Hills council will continue to meet on Zoom. File.

responding to 70 per cent of calls between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"Duty crews do not replace or alleviate anyone's responsibility from responding to any call," stated Johnson's report.

"The duty crew is designed to ensure the community has adequate responders to

start the call off right."

According to Johnson, the new system might make the job less taxing, as volunteers won't feel pressured to attend calls on the weeks they are off-duty. (Minden Hills news compiled by Sam Gillett).

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

STAFF

PUBLISHER

Simon Payn | simon@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL

Lisa Gervais

Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca

Sam Gillett

Reporter | sam@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker

Reporter | mike@thehighlander.ca

SALES

Michele Guite

Sales manager | michele@thehighlander.ca

Dawn Poissant

Sales | dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson

Sales coordinator | laurie@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER

Glenda Mumford | admin@thehighlander.ca

PRODUCTION

Tania Moher

Design manager | production@thehighlander.ca

Peter Stewart

Designer | peter@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION

Walt Griffin

CONTACT

705-457-2900

123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian
Community Newspapers Association

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Housing need is great

Over the past several weeks, I've found myself writing about a myriad of issues relating to housing in the Highlands. While the stories may be different, there's a common theme stringing them together – availability, or lack thereof, and affordability.

This isn't new. Housing has been an issue in Haliburton County long before I pitched up with pen and paper. And that, in and of itself, is the problem. We're all well aware of what's going on now, so why aren't we doing anything about it?

I hear people admitting there's a lack of housing in the Highlands, and that we sympathize with those who find themselves, quite literally, on the outside looking in. I've listened as various individuals and community groups emphasize their support for affordable housing.

So, again, why is it we haven't seen any substantive movement on the handful of projects and developments that have been brought forward over the past year?

Dysart council agreed to give away land on Wallings Road more than a year ago to support the development of a 48-unit affordable housing complex, to be managed by Places for People. Since then, miles of bureaucratic red tape have held the project up, to the point that some area residents are questioning whether or not construction will ever get underway.

Concerns have been raised about potential projects that would see apartments built on Grass Lake, the corner of Maple Avenue

and Victoria Street in Haliburton village, in Glebe Park, and along Hwy. 35 in Minden. Together, along with the Places for People project, it's estimated these builds could bring well over 200 new rental units.

It's easy and far too simplistic to suggest these concerns are simple NIMBYism. I've spoken to many of these people. For the most part, they're level-headed and well-researched. Their anxieties surrounding safety and environmental impacts aren't unfounded.

Still, I feel the need to reiterate that there are people living in our community right now without a home. According to the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, there are at least 15 families, seven seniors and seven youth without a fixed address in the Highlands, with a further 10 households sleeping outside, in a vehicle or a seasonal trailer. Michelle Corley, manager of the program, said she's never seen the situation this bad before.

It's important to note that these aren't just low-income families. These are working professionals, some of them well paid. I spoke with one family at a recent Places for People fundraiser. They're living on one income, but were comfortable as recently as 12 months ago when they were renting a place in Minden. Now, they're splitting time between a trailer and a seasonal cottage, after their landlord decided to sell. They have spent months trying to find a more permanent solution, to no avail.

I've heard stories from nurses who moved

from the GTA and promptly left again after finding it impossible to secure suitable accommodation.

The lack of inventory is driving people away, and others outdoors.

It's time for difficult decisions, such as having to choose between giving a person a home, or what's deemed to be a marginal piece of wetland, or disrupting a property owner's home comforts, for which there is no decision at all.

Our community is growing. Ten-year projections suggest we're going to see an influx of more than 2,000 new residents by 2031. Experts are predicting we'll need to build around 1,200 new units to meet demand. Our only option is to develop within our urban centres, where new builds can tap into existing infrastructure. This type of vacant land is scarce, meaning we need to build where we can.

We need to stop dragging our feet. This situation isn't going to get better on its own. We need municipal leaders to be strong, and our community to be open-minded and accepting of development. That is our only path forward.



By Mike Baker

COVID CORNER

49 Greek letters and chewing gum

What does RNA live to do? Make copies of itself. The coronavirus genome (the genes that make up the virus), is a twisted strand of nearly 30,000 letters of RNA. (The human genome is over three billion.) When the virus finds a cell it likes, it injects it with a strand of RNA containing its entire genome. It uses the machinery inside the host cell to replicate its 30,000 sequenced letters, copying and copying and copying. With each new infection, in each new cell, inevitable copying errors occur (mix-ups in the letter sequences). Most of these make SARS-CoV-2 a less effective virus. But some have the opposite effect, shaping the virus to more efficiently do the only thing that RNA really wants to do - make more copies of itself.

We call this evolution. It is how variants like Omicron (B.1.1.529) - the most recent variant of concern - are born.

On Nov. 9 in Botswana a sample of the Omicron letter sequence was collected, sequenced by South African researchers, and uploaded to a central site on Nov. 23. On Nov. 24, South Africa reported to the WHO. Omicron cases have now been identified in more than a dozen countries including Germany, the UK, China, Australia, Canada, the list growing as you read this.

Omicron is scary because it has a large number of mutations in its sequence for

the spike protein, which is the major target of our vaccines and is the entry point for SARS-CoV-2 to access our cells.

Omicron appears to be highly transmissible. Data from South Africa show test positive rates from Gauteng province jumped from around one per cent to 30 per cent last week. (About 25 per cent of the population is vaccinated.) A traveler from South Africa to Hong Kong who tested negative before his flight Nov. 11 then tested positive while quarantining in a Hong Kong hotel on Nov. 13. Someone across the hallway then tested positive for the new variant. Both individuals had high viral loads. Of 539 travelers from South Africa to the Netherlands last Friday, they identified 61 cases.

Unvaccinated individuals are more likely to become sick when exposed, have a much higher viral load, and are far more likely to transmit to others. In this way, unvaccinated people pave the way for the virus to achieve its mission: making copies of itself, leading to more mutations.

Ponder this: There are countries in Africa with two per cent vaccination rates.

How effective are vaccines against Omicron variant? Tracing the RNA sequences of the variants of concern shows Omicron to be more similar to the original Alpha than to the Delta lineage. So far, among vaccinated people, there have been

no serious cases.

Viruses don't want to become so deadly they kill off their hosts. They mutate to increase the amount of their genetic code circulating. Mild diseases like the common cold keep hosts alive to spread more virus. But the number of spike protein mutations in Omicron is significantly more than in the other variants, including mutations that allow more efficient cell entry (increasing transmissibility), show resistance to neutralizing antibodies and evasion of innate immunity (making previous infections and vaccines less effective protection).

And then there's gum. A new experimental chewing gum could reduce the amount of coronavirus particles in saliva and help slow transmission, according to a study in the journal Molecular Therapy. The gum contains a protein that "traps" virus particles, reducing the spread of virus-laden droplets when infected people are talking, breathing, or coughing. The viral load in the samples fell by more than 95 per cent, the researchers said. The gum feels and tastes like conventional gum and meets FDA requirements.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Not a simple case of NIMBYism

Dear editor,

I would like to be very clear that the residents in the Haliburton by the Lake subdivision recognize the dire need for low-income housing in Haliburton County.

I am offended that councillor John Smith would accuse us of NIMBYism when clearly the issues presented to council are all about protection of wetlands on the site, environmental impact not just on Head Lake but the entire five lake chain, lack of sufficient parking space, huge safety concerns regarding the dangerous corner proposed for access onto Halbiem Crescent where the roads are narrow with no sidewalks, huge increase in traffic both within the neighbourhood as well as at the intersection of Halbiem and County Road 21.

The township has also tried to move ahead with this proposal without any of the studies they require from anyone else. Does this mean that the township does not have to abide by their own rules?

The cost of building the proposed access and improving road conditions in the neighbourhood could be in the millions of dollars, on top of the donation of land and the proposed waiving of fees. There are other township-owned properties that are much more suitable, have less environmental impact and would be much more cost effective to develop. As a taxpayer, I want my elected officials to be better stewards of the hard-earned tax dollars we all pay.

Yes, let's build the much-needed low-income housing, but let's do it in the best location possible from every standpoint.

Kim Stamp
Resident of Haliburton by the Lake

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tammy Nash recently took this photo of a doe in the front yard of her Algonquin Highlands home.

Cart before the horse

Dear editor,

On Nov. 23, a presentation was made to Dysart council by Tim Negus, president of the Haliburton By The Lake Property Owners Association regarding the proposed low-income housing development on Wallings Road.

The Highlander failed to report the most important issues concerning residents of the Halbiem subdivision. This issue is less about low-income housing and more about population density, environmental issues, water tables and traffic congestion.

The housing development will have 48 units. Add to that the fact that the old MNR

property will probably become a condo development of unknown size plus the existing condo building already occupied.

All of these units stand to put undue strain on the water table, which could have a detrimental effect on the wells in Halbiem subdivision.

There has been no environmental assessment done on this property and yet Dysart is moving ahead with the project. Undoubtedly, the owner of the MNR property will need to have an environmental assessment.

It has been suggested that Wallings Road will become a one-way street with all traffic re-routed onto Halbiem Crescent and then out to County Road 21.

Halbiem Crescent is not up to standard

for that kind of traffic flow. The road is narrow and there are no sidewalks. During the morning commute, the road traffic will include vehicles from Halbiem residents, the proposed housing units, the current condo and possibly the condo units on the MNR property, plus all the school buses.

The County of Haliburton has indicated that there is no plan to put a stoplight at that intersection. This will create a traffic nightmare.

Dysart council has put the cart before the horse. This is a knee jerk reaction to the lack of affordable housing without proper planning.

Janet Bradley
Haliburton

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU When to call for help

Dr. Diane Duff RN PhD

As we age, our blood vessels harden and become narrower and this is the primary cause of heart attacks and strokes. We can keep our arteries more elastic and reduce the build-up of fat and cholesterol, by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Regular check-ups can also help identify other risk factors for heart disease and stroke, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol which can be effectively treated with ongoing medication and monitoring.

However, if you experience a sudden onset of shortness of breath or a strange feeling in your chest, arms, neck or shoulders, and are feeling sweaty, lightheaded or weak you may have a blockage of one of your blood vessels in the heart and may be experiencing a heart attack. A blockage in the brain may cause a sudden severe headache and/or difficulty

with vision, speaking, balance, and numbness or loss of movement on one side of the body. This is a stroke.

The good news is that we have “clot buster” medications that may relieve the blockage and stop the damage to heart or brain tissues by restoring blood flow. This means your health outcomes will be better and your chance of dying or being disabled will be hugely reduced.

The key is for you to immediately recognize that a stroke or heart attack may be happening and get treatment at the Emergency Department. Sadly, many people do not know the signs or that immediate treatment is needed. Women, in particular, may delay seeking help, despite experiencing the symptoms of a heart attack or stroke. But it is also true that women will often experience shortness of breath, pressure in the abdomen, jaw and back, together with exhaustion and

dizziness rather than “chest pain.”

I want to thank Leona for sharing her story in the Nov. 18, 2021 *Highlander*. It is such an important story about getting immediate treatment. Leona wrote about how on Oct. 9 while out for her daily walk, she was having difficulty breathing and started to experience chest pain. She stepped on the road and flagged down a car. The driver was a nurse who took her to a local emergency room, before she was taken to Peterborough Hospital. She’s recovering and doing great.

I was that nurse. I saw her standing at the side of the road, clutching her chest, looking pale and anxious, and signaling for cars to stop. Lots of cars had stopped, thinking she wanted to cross the road. But I immediately pulled out from the cars stopped on my side of the road, made a U-turn, and pulled up next to her.

I was concerned she might be having a

heart attack. When she confirmed she was having chest pain and shortness of breath. I drove her to the hospital, which was less than a minute away. It was wonderful that she had the self-awareness to know that something was not right and the presence of mind to make her way to the side of the road to find help. We were lucky the Minden emergency department was so close by and she could get immediate treatment and transportation to a larger hospital.

I am so glad to hear that she is on the mend. It was lovely of her to take the time to reach out and say thanks. I would also like to thank the nurses, doctors, and other health professionals who work in the ED 24/7/365 to make sure we are well cared for in emergency health situations. Leona had many guardian angels on Oct. 9.

Highlander business

Global scam hits local gnome artists

By Sam Gillett

A pair of Highlands East artists are raising the alarm about an online shopping scam that's stolen their shop's identity and wasted countless hours of their time.

Sadie and Casper Revenant run RevenantFX from their home near Gooderham. They create hand-painted, horror-themed gnomes and other small statues.

In April 2021, they started receiving messages from fans asking about product listings on Amazon claiming to sell their products.

"We'd never seen anything like it before," Casper said.

They tried to report the fake product listing, but nothing happened. They shared it with their online following of more than 26,000 fans on Facebook and Instagram.

"People tried to report the ads and nothing came of it," he said.

The fake ads multiplied.

"I spent about three weeks reporting listings, just Amazon alone," said Sadie. Often Amazon would take the listing down, just as another popped up.

They've joined an online "scambusters" group that helped them report hundreds of copyright infringements on listings.

Customers who purchased the fake products showed images of smaller, lighter and mass-produced gnomes and statues, poor plastic replicas of Casper's painting and Sadie's moulding skill. While RevenantFX has posted multiple blogs and social media posts cautioning buyers, many shops get angry customers who believe the original maker is to blame.

A quick search for "zombie gnome" on Amazon shows how widespread the scam

is: even with constant reporting, multiple vendors on Amazon currently advertise Casper and Sadie's work, even using their product images and stealing hundreds of Etsy reviews.

Amazon wrote that "Our efforts have ensured more than 99.9 per cent of all Amazon page views by our customers landed on pages that did not receive a notice of potential counterfeit infringement and more than 99 per cent of the reviews read by customers are authentic."

Despite those claims, RevenantFX said they've suffered massive sale losses due to fake reviews helping siphon customers away from their legitimate Etsy page and website.

"They're sucking our income out," said Casper.

Those who buy the fake gnomes, or any fake product online, often must return the product before being eligible for a refund when purchasing through sites such as Amazon or Paypal. However, returning a package from Canada to a country such as Hong Kong can cost more than \$60, more than the price of many goods ripped off of RevenantFX.

Previously, PayPal has declined to comment on the matter, which has become known as a "bait and switch" tactic.

Buyer beware

Casper said he's learned that the shops often target holidays such as Christmas.

"Whatever the season is coming up, you're going to see the ads for that a little bit ahead of time," said Casper.

The Canadian government's anti-fraud centre warns buyers that the holidays, for



Local freelance artists Casper and Sadie Revenant create horror-themed gnomes. Photo by Sam Gillett.

scammers, "is a time of taking." They caution buyers to research a seller before purchasing, or inputting the name into a web browser to see if warnings pop up.

"Just do your research," said Sadie.

Often sellers such as RevenantFX have a robust social media presence with engaged audiences and their names visible.

Besides making sure buyers get their gnomes from the source, a long-term solution seems a long way off.

"You'd think there are things in place that would stop that, or somehow fight it, but no, it seems like nobody seems to care," said Casper. For them, publicity is the first step in fighting the scam.

"The thing is to get the word out as much as we can. What we've seen is most of the stuff that's going on is illegal in the first place but nothing can be done about it. Who do you call? Who goes after it?"

Rhubarb on the Hill to open this weekend

By Lisa Gervais

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride and event centre will welcome patrons to the new Rhubarb on the Hill this Friday, Dec. 3 as the Wilkinson family begins to implement some of their changes to the newly-acquired property.

Doug Wilkinson and his family purchased the Eagle Lake ski hill from the Bishop family earlier this fall.

"Our family is excited to continue the wonderful legacy the Bishop family began back in 1965," Doug Wilkinson said.

He said the Bishops and the current team had been extremely welcoming and helpful through the transition, and they were looking forward to working with them throughout the upcoming ski season.

Doug Wilkinson said his family has been cottaging in the region, currently on Boshkung Lake, for the last 15 years and their kids learned to ski at Sir Sam's.

"We are looking forward to continuing to make great memories for our family here. We have a number of exciting plans for Sir Sam's designed to improve the guest experience while maintaining our family-

friendly environment," he added.

This season, guests will be welcomed into their renovated upper chalet, redone in a more contemporary fashion that will make it attractive for all types of events, including winter and summer weddings, Wilkinson said. The new space will hold up to 250 people inside.

In addition, "Working with Terri and Chris at Rhubarb, we are bringing the concept of 'Rhubarb on the Hill' back to Eagle Lake. We will be serving all the traditional favourites (including the Caesars) while adding delicious healthy and vegetarian choices as well.

"We will start welcoming guests at the restaurant on Dec. 3 and be open for breakfast, lunch and après ski/dinner from Thursday to Monday," Wilkinson said.

Rhubarb co-owner Terri Mathews-Carl said they had a restaurant at the former Silver Eagle Resort in Eagle Lake before moving to Carnarvon about eight years ago. She said the Wilkinsons are regular customers and Doug approached them about collaborating to provide food services at the ski hill.

After selling Boshkung Brewing a year and a half ago, Mathews-Carl said there was room for such a venture although they knew it would mean more work at a time when it is difficult to staff restaurants. They were able to use existing staff and some new hires to pull it off.

She said Kayla Gardiner is largely heading the venture for Rhubarb.

She said some people think the menu is going to be fine dining, similar to the Carnarvon eatery, but that isn't the case. She said it will be "a little more elevated with healthy food options." The new apres ski, between 5 and 8 p.m., for example, will offer things such as homemade burgers and charcuterie. During the day, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., she said lunch will include barbecue, poutine, burgers, hotdogs, soups and salads. The restaurant will also be open Mondays for breakfast, lunch and dinner when not many County eateries are open that day.

"We definitely are excited. It's great," Mathews-Carl said, noting it wouldn't have happened without Gardiner's hard work.

The Wilkinsons have also installed a new bar (topped with a 100-year-old barn beam) facing the hill with a take-out window for the spacious deck.

On the slopes this year, they are going to continue the ski/boarding experience patrons are accustomed to. The ski hill will continue to operate five days a week, from Thursday through Monday, with morning and afternoon half-day options available throughout.

"We are also making exciting changes to the terrain park for our more adventurous guests," Wilkinson said.

He added they're looking forward to re-introducing a number of fun and exciting events throughout the season starting with a tree lighting at around 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 in support of SIRCH. Nick and Benton will be performing some kids favourite Christmas tunes on the deck followed by a full concert inside afterwards.

See more at sirsams.com

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Highlander arts

Providing a platform for young artists

By Mike Baker

A group of young, Haliburton-based artists are inviting residents to “step into their mind” and experience a pop-up art show debuting this weekend.

The Limbic Collective is made up of 10 artists who, through a variety of media, have expressed their take on personal identity, emotions and the nuances of human existence for the series, opening Dec. 4 in unit four downstairs in the Stedman’s Mall on Highland Street. There’ll be an official opening at 6 p.m.

Joey Varga is the heart and soul of the movement. An aspiring painter, Varga said they’ve often found it difficult to find avenues to showcase their pieces – something they believe is common among those looking to break into the industry.

“I first conceptualized this some time ago, while I was a student at Haliburton School of Art + Design. Another student and I started talking and thought it would be really great to have something in town that wasn’t elitist, ultra-competitive or difficult to get into,” Varga said. “We wanted to provide an opportunity for young artists to exhibit their work, but more than that to make them feel like they really belonged.”

The ‘Step Into Our Mind’ art show will run until Dec. 11 featuring installation, video, performance, painting, 3D printing,

wearable, sculpture, and poetry.

Tiffany Howe, who recently opened her Howe Creative home studio in Haliburton, is curator of the exhibition, with Varga curatorial assistant. While the event is designed to embrace those just starting out, Varga felt it was important to have an established hand help guide the group.

Speaking to their medium, Varga said, “Installation art is unique – rather than inviting people to look at a painting, a video or a sculpture, it’s like you turn a specific space into a piece of art. So that means putting things on the ceiling, on walls and on the floor. My goal is to have something that people can walk through to experience as more of an atmosphere rather than simply something to look at.”

The event is being part sponsored by the Ethel Curry Gallery and Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre.

Plans are in place for the Limbic Collective to host more events in the community.

“The idea for this collective is not to just have one event and for it to be over ... Maybe there’s opportunities for some artists to rent studio space together, to hold individual events, or do big seasonal shows at different times of the year,” Varga said.

“We’re just starting out, and we’re growing, which is really exciting.”

The opening ceremony will run from 6 to



Artist Joey Varga preparing an acetate print for a book of scores, poems and images they’re currently working on. *Submitted.*

8 p.m., with the show open daily from Dec. 5 to 10 from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A closing ceremony will take place on Dec. 11, from

6 to 8 p.m. The show is free to all residents, though they will be accepting donations at the door to help cover running costs.

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Highlander education

Principal outlines plan to improve student reading levels

By Mike Baker

Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) principal Dawn Sudsbury admitted reading levels among her students are “a bit alarming” in a presentation to TLDSB board trustees Nov. 23.

Since beginning her new role in September, Sudsbury has been working hard to create a new School Improvement Equity Plan (SIEP) at ASES after being surprised by some of the reports coming in from teachers regarding individual student reading levels.

“Currently, 15 per cent of our students in Grades 2 to 8 are reading at a grade equity level. Our goal, by June, is we want 100 per cent of our students to demonstrate growth in reading, which includes accuracy, fluency and comprehension. We have a goal to have 51 per cent of students reading at a grade level by June,” Sudsbury informed trustees.

“I can’t say I was shocked, but I found that 15 per cent was a bit alarming,” she added, after being asked to reflect on the numbers by trustee John Byrne.

Through her analysis, Sudsbury noted that some of the problems are different throughout the various age groups. Students from Grade 2 to 4, for example, are having a hard time looking at words and being able to properly sound them out, while some of the more junior and intermediate students are struggling with comprehension.

Improvement begins and ends in the classroom, Sudsbury said, and she’s been leaning on her teachers to implement individualized plans to try to get the best out of each of their students.

“Guided instruction is a great tool, and what that means is having instruction that is very specific for each student,” Sudsbury said. “All students can achieve ... we just

need to think a little differently to tap into their potential.”

Return to regular semesters

Director of education Wes Hahn said secondary schools have been given the go ahead to return to regular semesters starting in February.

“There are definitely benefits to moving back to a regular semester. Over the next week or so, we will be working with staff to iron a few things out and then hope to have an announcement about what we’re going to do,” Hahn said. “We’ll be making the best decision possible for students.”

He said there were a number of factors to consider before making the jump back, most notably how staff would deal with transitioning to a regular schedule from the quadmester system the board has been using since September.

While those conversations are at an early stage, Hahn believes teachers have shown how versatile they can be throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Every time we’ve gone to a different model we’ve been successful to the best of our abilities. Even when we were working in octomesters, which weren’t ideal, staff and administrators made that work,” Hahn said. “Staff have done an extraordinary job under extraordinary circumstances.”

Outbreak at Stuart Baker

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit declared a COVID-19 outbreak at Stuart Baker Elementary School

last week after two students were found to have contracted the virus.

TLDSB spokesperson Sinead Fegan says a positive case was identified at the school on Nov. 24 and a number of students were sent home to isolate. Then, on Nov. 26, the board was notified of a second positive case. Fegan said the two cases are linked, with bus No. 32, which transports students from SBES, J.D. Hodgson Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, identified as the source of the outbreak.

As of press time, no further cases had been confirmed. Fegan noted that some students were still isolating at home.

Director award

It was a busy meeting for Sudsbury, who was also presented with a director’s recognition award for her early work as principal at ASES. She was nominated for the award by vice principal Mike Gervais.

“Dawn is a highly passionate leader who prioritizes the need of all learners at her school, and makes plans to support their learning and enhance their educational experience. When staff and students walk into ASES, it’s clear they’re stepping into a community focused on student achievement and equity,” Hahn said.

Since her arrival, Sudsbury has worked with staff to streamline and enhance their teaching practices, and placed an increased focus on individualized learning for students.

Hahn noted her efforts have “created a strong team environment” at ASES, making it a great place for staff to teach and students to learn.

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Notice of Cemetery Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their December 21st, 2021 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2021-35, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the Evergreen Cemetery. This amendment will increase the minimum care and maintenance fund/account contribution amounts effective January 1, 2022 in accordance with Ontario Regulation 30/11.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetal.ca>.

Laurie Salvatori, Deputy Clerk

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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND *STORM!*



Left: Travis Rowe heads up ice. Right: Bryce Harrison shoots on net. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Storm edge Coyotes 5-3

On Thursday, Nov. 25, the Kawartha Coyotes came to Minden to redeem themselves after a loss last week against our U11 Storm rep team.

The energetic Storm team took to the ice with confidence. Lyla Degeer put her team on the board with a short-handed goal assisted by Travis Rowe. The Coyotes tied the game with one minute left in the first. Brycen Harrison retaliated with an unassisted goal with 30 seconds left, giving the Storm the lead going into the second.

The Storm's Harrison was the only goal scorer in the second, assisted by Degeer.

The Coyotes did not back down in the third and scored one minute in. The Storm's Rowe

responded with a goal assisted by Hawksley Dobbins and Chase Kerr. The Coyotes again answered with another goal. With two minutes left in the third, Cruize Neave scored, assisted by Harrison and Kelson Bagshaw making the final score 5-3 Storm.

Goalie Colten Simms played a solid game in the Storm net.

The players were thrilled to participate in the Haliburton Santa Claus parade on Friday, Nov. 26, providing a great team bonding experience.

The Storm U11 rep team hits the ice next against Manvers on Sunday, Dec. 5. (Submitted).



Hunter Hamilton lugs the puck. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*



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Cruize Neave and Bryce Harrison celebrate the Storm's second goal. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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| U11 AE vs Kawartha..... | 1-0 W |
| U11 Rep vs Mariposa..... | 5-4 L |
| NOVEMBER 28 | |
| U13 Rep vs Millbrook | 4-0 L |
| U18 Rep vs Sturgeon | 4-1 L |

REP STARS



1

Lyla Degeer came out flying from the first drop of the puck. She opened up the scoring in the first period and added an assist on a later goal. She was great in the defence zoning and she is very skilled at angling the opposition off the puck.



2

Brycen Harrison played a very strong game and was awesome in the offensive zone. He utilizes his size to his advantage from one end of the ice to the other. He capitalized on his great shooting ability scoring two goals and adding an assist.



3

Hawksley Dobbins played a very strong game in the defensive zone, stopping the other team on several occasions. He uses his tremendous speed to not let the other team get around him. Had a very nice assist setting up one of our goals.



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CENTURY 21
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Move to blueline helped Sooklal evolve

By Mike Baker

Long before logging big minutes as one of the OJHL's leading two-way defencemen, Isaac Sooklal dreamed of following in the footsteps of his childhood hockey hero, Jarome Iginla, the hall of fame power forward who spent more than 20 years terrorizing defences across the National Hockey League.

"I loved the way he played, how he wasn't afraid to throw the body, his skill and the goals he would score," Sooklal said.

It was only natural that Sooklal, during his early days playing hockey in Whitby, tried to replicate his idol. He gained a reputation as a fiery, free-scoring forward moving through the minor hockey system.

It was when he made the jump to AAA at the bantam level that he transitioned to the blueline. Sooklal grew into his body young and, having always enjoyed the physical side of the game, was told he would be better served developing into an offensive-minded defenceman. The decision has paid dividends.

Sooklal entered the OJHL as a 16-year-old during the 2018/19 season, playing 60 games with the Whitby Fury. He played another 54 games during the COVID-19 shortened 2019/20 season.

With the pandemic ensuring there was no junior hockey in Ontario last year, Sooklal was offered the opportunity to play on the east coast, representing the Pictou County

Crushers in the MJHL.

"Coach [Ryan Ramsay] called me up, he knew I had been skating and keeping myself ready, and he asked if I'd like to go down there for a year to play. I thought it was a great opportunity, because while everyone else is sitting at home and not playing hockey, I'd be able to get some games in and test myself in a new league," Sooklal said.

He played 20 games, registering 10 points, 73 hits and 60 penalty minutes. A smile stretches across his face when it was suggested that, based on those statistics, he had clearly maintained some of his hero's characteristics.

Today, Sooklal believes his play replicates Los Angeles Kings d-man Drew Doughty and the recently retired Dustin Byfuglien.

"They're both guys that can do things offensively, but really excel in their defensive game," Sooklal said.

It has been a frustrating debut season thus far in Haliburton for the 19-year-old, who has had to deal with a problematic ligament injury in his thumb. He has played in only 10 games.

But he's had a key role behind the scenes. As one of the team's assistant captains, he's helped establish a culture in the locker room and foster key relationships with his teammates.

"This is easily the most bonded team I've ever been a part of. Sometimes I feel like players or coaches will say a team is



Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Isaac Sooklal returned to action this past weekend after a long layoff dealing with a thumb injury. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

together, when, really, they aren't, but I think you can see out there on the ice how much we all fight for each other every single night," Sooklal said. "I can honestly say I love everyone on this team. We're all brothers."

With key players such as Oliver Tarr, Nathan Porter and Christian Stevens putting in career seasons, Sooklal believes the sky is the limit for this Huskies outfit. Backed by what he says is the league's best goaltending tandem in Christian Cicigoi and Christian Linton, Sooklal says the team

has everything it needs to compete for the OJHL championship this season.

"I think we match up against anyone really well. We're in the most competitive division in the league, and we're performing really well. Right now, my mind is on the Bucklin [championship trophy presented to the OJHL champions]," Sooklal said.

Sooklal still has one more season of junior hockey left. He harbours hopes of one day turning pro, and has held tentative discussions with some Division 1 NCAA schools south of the border.

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Sam Solarino and Oliver Tarr celebrate a Huskies' goal. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Huskies take a point in weekend action

By Lisa Gervais

A Lucas Marshall goal, his first of the season, bailed the Haliburton County Huskies out Nov. 26 as they tied the Cobourg Cougars in OJHL action at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

The goal, at 6:21 of the third, was assisted by Ryan Hall and Christian Stevens. It came after the Huskies squandered a 2-0 first period lead, allowing the Cougars to score three second-period goals to put the home side on its heels.

The Huskies started strong with Oliver Tarr scoring his 20th goal of the season at 3:04, from Cameron Kosurko and Sam Solarino.

Then, Lucas Stevenson scored on the powerplay, with helpers from Isaac Sooklal and Tarr, at 15:17 to give the dogs the edge.

It was a different second period, however, as the Huskies came out tentative and the

Cougars pounced. Tai York bulged the twine at 2:19; Liam Filip at 12:28 and Isaac Pascoal at 16:42. Marshall then got the tying goal to breathe life into the locals.

The game headed to an exciting double overtime with no team able to break the deadlock, although Huskies' goalie Christian Cicigoi had a game-winning save to allow the Huskies to escape with the point.

Marshall said he was both happy and excited to score the equalizer. "Getting the monkey off the back, it's really something. It was well due for sure," he said. After the tough second period, he added the goal brought some energy to the bench, which "was nice."

Cicigoi talked about the game-winning overtime save following a Huskies' turnover.

"I said to myself 'this is not going in. We're not losing this game'."

Cicigoi said overall, they played a solid game and were happy to find a way to get a point out of it.

"I think we did a good job as a team after the second to regroup and it showed in the third to get that one back and the bench was upbeat and we all wanted to win." He said it speaks to the character of the team and he's excited about what the future holds.

Coach Ryan Ramsay said they played well for the first 10 minutes of the game, then sat back, "and they took it to us." However, he said they played really well in the third. As they get later in the season, the bench boss added the Huskies can't let teams come back.

He said blueliner, Sooklal, back from injury, played well although his timing was off. Payton Schaly was also back from long-term injury. Pat Saini is scheduled to return for the Dec. 3 rematch with Cobourg.

Despite Oliver Tarr scoring his league-

leading 21st goal of the season, the Huskies fell to the Wellington Dukes on the road Nov. 28.

Wellington broke a goose egg in the second, with Mason Reeves scoring at the 20 second mark. Tarr answered back late in the frame, assisted by Schaly. However, the Dukes scored late in the third (19:21) to take the win.

Ramsay said to be scored on with 20 seconds left in the game was "disheartening" and "kind of takes the wind out of your sails." However, he said his boys played a good game. It was a tough one, though, losing Joe Boice to a misconduct, and Christian Stevens and Lucas Marshall to injury.

The Huskies are home to Cobourg Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. They travel to Trenton Dec. 5 for a 7:30 clash. Please note: The Dec. 20 home game has been moved to Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.



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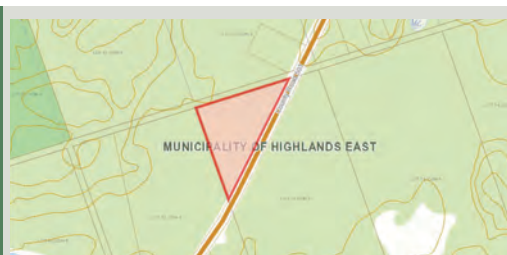
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Highlander sports



Left: Victoria Fenniger prepares to throw her disc. Right: Jessica Goulet of Sudbury whips the disc down the course. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Abbey Gardens hosts discers from across province

Abbey Gardens hosted a sanctioned Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) tournament Nov. 27. Dubbed Thin Ice, the Haliburton competition attracted C-Tier disc golfers, featuring amateur only divisions. It was a two-round event with a shotgun start. Although there has been a small, unmaintained course in Head Lake Park for many years, Abbey Disc Golf is the first true championship course with 18 holes and tee pads for both experienced and beginner players. The first tournament at Abbey Disc Golf, a fundraiser for the Abbey Retreat Centre, drew over 65 players from across Ontario. (Lisa Gervais).

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Community 'go-getter' touched lives

By Sam Gillett

Margaret "Jane" van Nood (nee Mailloux) always made time to help people.

Whether volunteering with the Haliburton Lions Club, Friends of the Library, Abbey Retreat Centre, or the County's Community Kitchen, Jane's passion for her family, friends and the Highlands community shone through say many who knew her.

She passed away Nov. 22 at the age of 61.

Her sister-in-law Shelley van Nood said Jane's personality "sparkled" wherever she went.

"She was really engaged in life," said Shelley.

"If you needed help, Jane was there," said friend Linda Heeps, who also served with van Nood on the Friends of the Haliburton Public Library board.

"She would be the one driving people to doctors appointments in Lindsay," said Heeps, mentioning fond memories of the "Six Super Sisters," a group of friends who started out as a book club.

Jane was renowned for her love of Christmas and her decorations. The super sisters plan on taking down her Christmas decorations after the holidays.

She loved creating elaborate greeting cards and colourful jewelry; replacing customer's lost earrings for free.

Shelley van Nood said her family loved getting Holiday cards from Jane. "When you got a Christmas card from Auntie Jane, you knew it was made special, just for you," she said.

Heeps and many others also found solace in Jane's company through a breast cancer support group she helped start. Jane also volunteered at the Abbey Retreat Centre as a retreat facilitator.

"She touched everybody's lives," said Heeps.

She was also a dedicated member of the



Margaret van Nood, centre, and friends at a Haliburton Hike for Hospice in 2011. Submitted by Linda Heeps.

Haliburton County Lions Club. A tribute page on the club's website shows Jane helping out at a variety of Lions functions; never without a beaming smile.

"She was the most giving person there is in the world," said Lion Marilyn Frost. During a Lions' lady club retreat, Frost remembers Jane bringing "half the kitchen:" supplying all the kitchen equipment for delicious meals she helped cook for her

friends. "That was Jane," said Frost.

John Teljeur, Jane's cousin through marriage, remembers her as a devoted friend with a dedication to friends, family and community projects.

"She dove into things," said Teljeur. At Teljeur's Canadian National Pond Hockey tournament, Jane was one of the first to volunteer. "I'm not going to let you fail," Teljeur remembers her telling him.

"You look back in time and piece it all

together: the way that she was. She was just a go-getter, and she would take things on probably when she didn't even have the time," he said.

Teljeur said he hopes to host the tournament again this year, in Jane's honour.

"Her family should be so proud," Teljeur said. "She was only on the earth for 61 years but she impacted so many."

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Incoming chairperson Paul Vorvis said he's enjoying experimenting and exploring new topics at CanoeFM. *Submitted.*

CanoeFM paddles through pandemic year

By Sam Gillett

In the months after Canada went into lockdown, CanoeFM developed a new slogan.

"Remember that in good times and difficult times, community radio brings us together."

Paul Vorvis, the station's new board chair, said the saying rings true.

"People have always responded to CanoeFM," he said. "During the pandemic, we went from concern over what the future would bring to being so grateful for what the community has given to let us continue to do what we do."

The annual radiothon raised a record high in 2021, and the station's radio bingo became a Highlands tradition.

It raised an unprecedented \$106,000, half of which is being gifted to 23 community groups.

Vorvis, who calls the bingo numbers, said he heard countless stories of cottagers bringing bingo cards back home with them, making the game a Canada-wide affair.

While the lottery, which raised \$54,000, and bingo proceeds can't go to salaries at the station, it can fund production expenses and purchases.

"It's allowed us to really expand what we want to do to give back to the community," Vorvis said after the station's Nov. 23 annual general meeting.

A three-year voyage

"In my crystal ball I see that CanoeFM will make many changes in the coming few years," station manager Roxanne Casey wrote in her AGM letter.

Many of those changes hinge on the station's new three-year plan.

That includes focusing on financial stability, staff succession plans, volunteer recruitment, honing in on local content, and building the station's tech infrastructure.

Vorvis said he's particularly enthusiastic about cultivating local talent.

"We have a really rich musical community," he said. The station will apply for funding to hire a production coordinator and mentor to help artists professionally record their work in the station's Malcolm

MacLean radio hall. "We want to make this an incubator," Vorvis said.

CanoeFM is also working on increasing its listenership in remote areas of the Highlands.

"We want to represent Haliburton County but geographically there are places that don't receive our signal as well as others."

2021 fundraisers have helped reimburse volunteers who've spent hours driving Haliburton roads to map out signal strength from Dorset to Kinmount.

"We're going to be able to analyze those results and find out what we'll need to do to increase the signal," he said. "We say we want to be the voice of Haliburton County... but people need to be able to hear us."

Vorvis said CanoeFM is unique because of how board members often volunteer under the supervision of hired staff.

"You can see the impact of what you're doing," said Vorvis. "It allows us to see and then modify the policies and what CanoeFM does."

The station is built on the work of three staff members and 119 volunteers just like Vorvis, who spends about 20 hours a week hosting shows, bingo and now fulfilling the duties of board chair.

He said he encourages anyone looking to expand their skills or meet new people to get involved: no prior experience is necessary.

"I heard an ad they were looking for volunteers," said Vorvis. "I never had any experience in the industry but I thought 'ok I'll give it a shot.' I've never looked back, I enjoy every aspect of it."

Board appointments

Ron Evans, John Ewing, Gabrielle Holmes and Simon Payn joined the station's board of directors in November.

Past-president Tim Hagarty, Linda Heeps and Dan Sullivan finished their time on the board.

"Every one of you should be proud of our accomplishments this year and you, our volunteers, continue to make the magic happen," wrote Hagarty in a letter to CanoeFM members. "We are the true voice of Haliburton County and a welcoming caring setting to volunteer."



New Year's Eve Menu 2021

\$90 Per Person

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Starter

Trio of Oysters & Bubbles

Champagne mignonette, horseradish, Nomi Hot Sauce, Micro cilantro

Appetizers

Mushroom Sampler

Bacon wrap Enoki mushroom, Chourico stuffed Cremini caps, Prosciutto Wrap King Oyster, Goat's cheese Crema, Sundried Tomato Pesto

or

Beet Tartar

Beet Hummus, Heritage microgreens, Truffle-Citrus Vinaigrette

Mains

Veal Osso-Bucco Milanese

Yukon Garlic Mashed, Seared King Oyster, Anchovy gremolata

or

King Cole Duck Confit

Apple Cider Braised Cabbage, Poached Apple, Blood Orange Glaze.

or

Fuchsia Linguine

Purple & Golden Beet Spirals, Medley of Mushrooms, Truffle and Basil Pesto, Shaved Pecorino

Dessert

Trio of Truffles

Milk Chocolate, Salted Caramel, Strawberry

or

Baileys & Blueberry Crème Brulee

Served with Almond & Apricot Biscotti

or

Flourless Chocolate Cake & Portuguese Tiramisu Duet

Served with Amarena Cherry, Chantilly Cream, Berry Coulis



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Highlander community



Haliburton Lions and supporters gathered at the 4Cs foodbank to help unload non-perishable food. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

Lions reverse the calendar

The Haliburton and District Lions Club kicked off the advent season in reverse this year. The club welcomed foodbank donations Nov. 29 as part of its reverse advent calendar fundraiser, where givers were prompted to donate non-perishable goods to Haliburton's 4Cs Foodbank. "We're a service club, we're here to help people in need," said Lions president Gail Stelter. "It's a very dear project to our heart and one we look forward to doing every year." The Lions estimate they collected more than 150 lbs of food. *(Sam Gillett).*



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Highlander events



Shindig pulls in \$43,000

This year's Highlands Christmas Shindig was "a rousing success," according to Mike Jaycock, raising \$43,000 for Fuel for Warmth. The eighth annual variety show was presented live from the Haliburton Legion Nov. 27. and streamlined via various platforms. There was also a viewing party at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. Dame Beatrice (Jaycock) was back along with her housemaid, Penelope (Victoria Bingham). Special guest, Wendy Kurtz (Robin Duke), of the Blouse Barn from Schitt's Creek, made a hilarious appearance. Other acts included: David Archibald, Slinky & The Boys, Jim Blake and Fay Wilkinson, Tomorrow Never Knows, Nick and Stan Russell, The Moontones, and the Kowalksi Sisters with Ragged Company. Fuel for Warmth is a registered charitable organization, serving all of Haliburton County since 2009. It is operated by volunteers and does not receive any government funding. See fuelforwarmth.com for more information. (Lisa Gervais).

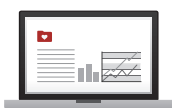
Left: David Archibald performs. Right: Dame Beatrice speaks to an audience at the Haliburton Legion, as well as those watching virtually, Nov. 27. Bottom: Fay Wilkinson, along with Jim Love, provided some storytelling. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



EPIC LAUNCH

On December 3, 2021 Haliburton Highlands Health Services and our partner hospitals across the region will launch a new clinical information system called Epic.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we make this major advancement in the way we provide patient care at Haliburton Highlands Health Services.



One digital record for each patient across our seven hospital organizations in the region.



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This new, shared system will transform the way we provide care for 1.5 million patients across the region.

Seven hospital organizations in Central East Ontario have partnered to implement a shared Clinical Information System (CIS) to support care for 1.5 million patients across our region. The partner hospitals are: Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Lakeridge Health, Northumberland Hills Hospital, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Ross Memorial Hospital and Scarborough Health Network.

Epic is one of the world's largest electronic health records software companies, and their system has been adopted by hundreds of leading hospitals in North America and Europe, including Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, The Ottawa Hospital, SickKids, and Mackenzie Health.



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Highlander events



Frosty festivities in Haliburton

Over 400 people lined Highland Street Nov. 26 for the Santa Claus parade. Organized by the Haliburton and District Lions Club and Haliburton BIA, the parade was back at full capacity after a quiet 2020 season.

Floats included the musical legion colour party, MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott, carolers and even a choreographed dance from the Haliburton Dance Academy. Honourary parade marshal Mike Jaycock waved from the back of a pickup truck and Santa Claus soared down the street on the Rotary club's famed sled featuring moving reindeer and a Christmas village. (Sam Gillett).

Left: A little parade participant watches from a float. Right: The Grinch leered and waved at the crowd. Photos by Sam Gillett.



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- Balsam RPM - 6657 Highway 35
- Haliburton RPM - 5122 County Road 21
- RedKenn RPM - 4355 Kennis Lake Road

Lets work together and provide the children in our communities a Christmas they can remember. There are many families within our communities that will be unable, without our help, to provide toys and Christmas cheer to their children. Between all of us, we collectively have the capacity and means to contribute to this community cause.

All proceeds are being donated to families in need through the local public schools located near our RPM Marinas locations.

If you want to participate in this 1st annual RPM Toy Drive, drop in and see us and make a purchase and will contribute on your behalf to the fund.

Alternatively, you have the option of dropping off an unwrapped toy, gift card or cash at 1 of our 3 locations during working hours 9-4:30, Tuesday to Saturday until December 14 @ Haliburton or RedKenn and Wednesday to Sunday @ Balsam location. We will make your direct contributions to this worthy cause and ensure that we put a smile on our local children's faces Christmas morning. Cash will be converted to gift cards, food and toys.

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Highlander events



Abigail and Evangeline Ingram were on hand to help decorate the downtown Christmas tree Nov. 21. The local BIA and Haliburton & District Lions Club are encouraging residents to add their own decorations in the lead up to Christmas. Photo by Mike Baker.

Downtown tree ripe for decoration

By Mike Baker

Residents are once again being invited to bring a personal touch to Christmas in Haliburton this festive season, by helping to decorate the downtown tree.

Put up Nov. 21 by volunteers from the Dysart Fire Department, it's the biggest tree the community has ever had, according to Haliburton & District Lions Club member Jim Frost, measuring in at more than 30 feet.

This is always a special time of the year for Frost, and his wife Marilyn, who often take the lead in organizing festive events across the community, most notably the annual Santa Claus parade. Last year though, with COVID-19 causing many popular events to be cancelled, the couple came up with a creative way to spread Christmas cheer around the community, asking residents to help spruce up the downtown tree. Now, they're hoping to do it again.

"We had so much fun with this last

year, and I know lots of kids did too. By Christmas we had a lot of decorations on there – the tree looked great," Frost said. "So, even though things are getting back to normal now, we thought 'why not make this part of what we do [in the lead up to Christmas]'."

The Lions are partnering with the Haliburton BIA on the initiative, and BIA administrator Angelica Ingram was on hand with her two children, four-year-old Evangeline and two-year-old Abigail, to apply the tree's first ornaments – a pair of blue reindeer.

"This is a good, nice way for us to kick off Christmas, and for the community to feel like they're a part of the downtown celebrations," Ingram said.

Residents can stop by the tree, located outside the Village Barn on Highland Street, anytime between now and Dec. 25 to hang a decoration. Ingram says the tree will remain in place until the first week of the new year. Residents will be required to pick up their decorations if they want them back.



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What's on

Give the gift of food this Christmas

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands OPP is encouraging residents to get into the spirit of giving this festive season.

The local police force is hosting its annual Fill-A-Cruiser event again this year, with officers scheduled to be at several locations across the region over the next few weekends to collect food, toys and monetary donations for three area food banks.

On Dec. 4, officers will be at Foodland in Haliburton from 10 a.m. to noon, and at Todd's Independent Grocer from 1 to 3 p.m. On the same day, police will also

be at Easton's Valu-Mart from 10 a.m. to noon and the Minden Foodland from 1 to 3 p.m. On Dec. 18, officers will be at the Wilberforce Foodland from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All donations will support the Minden Community Food Centre, Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank and the Central Food Network, which offers food and supplies to residents across Highlands East.

"The Christmas season can be a really hard time for some families financially; to be able to afford to put food on the table for their family on top of [buying] toys and taking care of all the other things they're responsible for at this time of the year, so

this event is really about our community coming together to help people out during a time of real need," said OPP Constable Michelle Scanlan.

Officers will be accepting non-perishable food items such as canned meats, soups and vegetables; cereals; meat alternatives such as peanut butter, soy and assorted nuts; sanitary items such as toilet paper and diapers; and personal hygiene products. Most participating locations, Scanlan said, have put together pre-packaged bags that residents can purchase and drop off with officers on their way out of the store.

As it has done for several years, the local force will also be collecting toys. Scanlan

said they would be passed on to families that are most in-need to ensure all children across the county have something to open up on Christmas day.

All money raised will also go directly to area food banks to help purchase in-demand items such as eggs, milk and meat.

"I was a part of the event last year, and even then, during a pandemic, it was amazing to see how quickly the cruisers were filling up," Scanlan said. "Every single person was walking out of the store with a bag in hand to give to us. We're fortunate to live in a very giving, very generous community. I'm sure this year's event is going to be [a] huge [success]."

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- Assist with the storage of materials and assist in room set-ups in the facilities for meetings, and various public functions.
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- Perform trail inspections
- May perform other duties as assigned

Applications **clearly marked "Application –Labourer (Property Department)"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., December 6, 2021 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: shunter@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

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We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Highlander classifieds

OBITUARIES



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1934-2021

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of a beautiful, generous, intelligent, selfless, and accomplished mother, daughter, former nurse and administrator, Sidney Joan Galley (nee Andrews).

Born in Toronto, Ontario, in 1934, Joan was a graduate of The Bishop Strachan School for girls, and McGill University School of Nursing. Through her schooling years and beyond, Joan developed and fostered many life-long friendships and interests. She beat to her own drum and is remembered by one of her nieces as "this glamorous aunt who had many boyfriends and her own apartment in Toronto", and by another niece who remembers, with slight envy, Joan's "little red sportscar"!

As a registered nurse, Joan worked in some of the toughest settings; the children's burn unit, neonatal intensive care, and emergency room. As children, we remember being awed by her stories and even a little mortified! Her career culminated in the senior administration of nursing homes, a demanding but rewarding end to her years "of patient care".

Joan had many passions; true crime, duplicate bridge, collecting and refinishing Canadiana furniture, English history, and genealogy, but her passion for ancient peoples, cultures and languages trumped all.

She visited many a far-flung destination, and sites of particular interest, in Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Africa and Central America. She could read Hieroglyphics and spent hours on the decipherment of the ancient Mycenaean Greek syllabic script, Linear B, which predates the Greek alphabet by several centuries.

Our home was clean but not tidy! Stacks of books and papers lined the rooms and covered even the dining room table. But it was a home filled with love and encouragement. Mom left us with many life lessons, and these, through example, not rhetoric. She was kind, a hard worker, a loyal and devoted friend and an involved parent.


And she wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty! Our parents purchased a lot on Little Redstone Lake in 1974. After a few summers "camping out", our parents spent many subsequent, building the family cottage, mostly themselves. We remember the anticipation of returning from summer camp to the "progress" that had been made at the cottage that season.

Mom never remarried after the passing of our father, Thomas Arnold Galley, in 1992 (age 56). She thereafter relocated to Haliburton, Ontario permanently, and continued to enjoy her family, friends, bridge games and social engagements. Kosy Korner Restaurant was a favourite destination – especially in the days when she could happily (and defiantly?) smoke at the table!

Joan is survived by her two children and five lovely grandchildren: Jon Stromer-Galley (Jen Stromer-Galley, Isabelle, Bridget & Audrey) and Karen Galley (Peter Buonocore, Emma, and Sean). The last surviving of her siblings (Leonard, Myrtle and Ruth), Joan was also close with her nieces, nephews, and extended family and, in particular, her niece Linda and husband Bob who were also with her through a beautiful and peaceful passing. With love and gratitude.

Respecting the family's wishes, there will be no formal service at this time. A celebration of life is planned for the spring. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to The Proud Pioneers of Extendicare. THE PROUD PIONEERS organize activities and events for the residents, by the residents, enriching their lives in many ways. Mom experienced loving and expert care through EXTENDICARE in the final years of her life and we could not be more appreciative for the service and support of their truly dedicated team. Please make your check payable to The Proud Pioneers at Extendicare Haliburton, 167 Park St, Haliburton, ON, K0M1S0.






In Loving Memory of
Ronald "Ron" Perrin Sr. aka Chaz and Hawk
November 24, 2021

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital with his family by his side on Wednesday morning, November 24, 2021 in his 75th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Barbara Perrin (nee Winfield). Loving father of Ron Jr. (Venesa) and Shaun (Stacey). Loving Grumps of Shelby (Derek), Hailly (Morgan), Tyler (Samantha), Maria, Zach, Liam, Jacob and by his great grandchildren Nolan and Mya. Dear brother of Donna (Ron) and Jim (Barb). Also fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Ron worked for Ronald S. Sisson Builders for over 25 years. He was an excellent carpenter and builder. He will be sadly missed by many. Ron enjoyed hunting, fishing and horseshoes. Most of all, he enjoyed his family and would do anything for them.

Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the

HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.




NOTICES

Say No to Condos on Grass Lake Wetlands
fograsslake@gmail.com
by Friends of Grass Lake

SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| 1 | N | O | S | I | R | 6 | N | A | B | 9 | C | A | L | 12 | A |
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| 20 | W | I | N | S | T | 21 | O | N | S | M | I | T | H | | |
| 22 | S | D | S | | | 25 | T | O | A | 26 | R | E | N | A | |
| 27 | T | O | T | A | L | 28 | I | T | A | R | I | A | N | I | S |
| 33 | R | R | A | T | E | D | 34 | T | A | N | | | | 35 | T |
| 36 | E | E | L | E | D | | 37 | W | A | H | | | 38 | E | A |
| 40 | A | M | I | | | | 41 | I | A | N | | | 42 | A | A |
| 43 | M | I | N | I | S | 44 | T | R | Y | 46 | O | F | T | R | U |
| 47 | N | I | G | H | | | 48 | H | E | A | | | 49 | T | O |
| 50 | G | E | O | R | G | E | O | R | W | E | L | | | | |
| 55 | L | E | M | O | N | T | R | E | E | | | 56 | O | U | T |
| 60 | O | R | A | M | A | | | 61 | S | E | L | | 62 | N | A |
| 63 | M | O | R | E | L | | | 64 | E | L | L | | 65 | E | U |



In Loving Memory of
James Vincent Bradbury

To our father who was always there for us. To our Pops who was always so proud of us. May god bless you and keep you safe as begin your next journey.


James Vincent Bradbury passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 96 years of age. He was predeceased by his wife Stephanie.

May this past June. James leaves behind his beloved children Elizabeth, James and Stephanie and their spouses - Ronald, Ligia and David. He will be greatly missed by his grandchildren Jeremy, Christina, Ryan, Nicole and Kathryn as well as his beloved great grandchildren.

James (Vince) has enjoyed the Minden area since the early 60's. He retired and has lived in Minden since 1984. James was actively involved with the Royal Canadian Branch 636; founding club member of Club 35 and the Minden Curling Club. He enjoyed curling, cribbage, euchre, woodworking and renovating.

James will be missed by his family and friends. His love will live forever in our memories of all the wonderful family celebrations that he was always a part of and the numerous card games that he so enjoyed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Royal Canadian Legion 636 or the Minden Community Food Centre and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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HELP WANTED



THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST
Is Currently Seeking An
Assistant Environmental Operator

Position Details:

Reporting to the Environmental Supervisor, the Assistant Environmental Operator will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of all Municipal water and wastewater facilities, including treatment, distribution and collection systems. As an Environmental Operator duties will also include Operator-in-charge (OIC) designation in accordance with all relevant Municipal, Provincial, and Federal legislation, standards and policies. Perform on-call duties, as required, on a rotational basis.

Position Requirements:

- ▶ Post-Secondary Diploma, such as Environmental Technician, or equivalent combination of education/work experience
- ▶ Preference will be given to individuals with a Class I or higher Water/Wastewater Operator Designation in all four disciplines (Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection).
- ▶ Minimum Operator-in-Training (OIT) certification in all four disciplines.
- ▶ Strong working knowledge of Ontario Health and Safety Act and Regulations, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, OWRA and EPA.
- ▶ WHMIS certification.
- ▶ Standard First Aid (considered an asset)
- ▶ Effective written and verbal communication skills
- ▶ Computer skills
- ▶ Sound mechanical ability
- ▶ Must possess an Ontario Class G Driver's License

Hours of Work: Shall consist of 40 hrs/wk, 7am to 3:30pm, Monday - Friday
Competitive Wage & Benefit Package Offered Including Pension

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application -Assistant Environmental Operator"** may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., December 13th, 2021 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: shunter@highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.



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HELP WANTED



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Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. **The Registered Nurse** earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. **Temporary accommodation will be provided.** Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earn \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:
The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609



Nurse Practitioner – 0.8 FTE (32 hours per week)

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre is a primary health care corporation dedicated to improving the health of the residents of Haliburton County. We are looking for an innovative, skilled, client-centered, team player to fulfill the role of 0.8 FTE Nurse Practitioner.

The 0.8 FTE Nurse Practitioner will provide health care to rostered patients of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Organization, including, but not limited to: acute/episodic, periodic health exams, procedures, preventive (cancer screening, immunizations), and provide coverage for physician absences. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. We also offer a comprehensive benefits package.

Candidates must provide proof of the following:

- Full series of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine
- Active/current membership with the RAO
- Valid Driver's Licence

Submit a written application and a detailed resume before 5:00 pm on December 3, 2021 to:

Kimberley Robinson
Haliburton Family Medical Centre
7217 Gelert Road, P.O. Box 870
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
kim.robinson@hhfht.com
Fax: 705-457-3955

We thank all who apply, but only those granted an interview will be contacted.

Highlander puzzles

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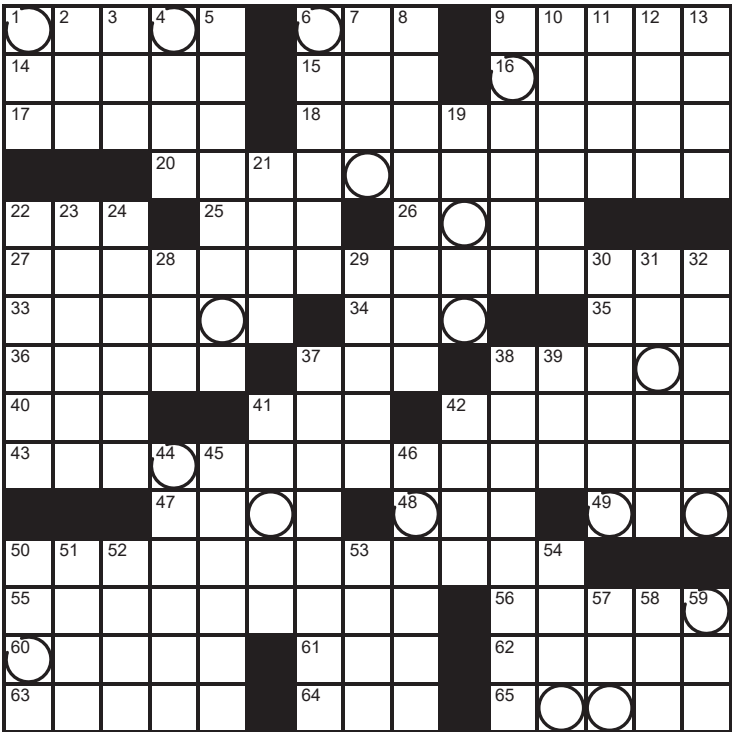
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Back to the Future

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Respectful refusal
- 6 Catch a perp
- 9 Lily variety
- 14 Occupied, as a restroom
- 15 Land in "la mer"
- 16 Cuban boat boy of 2000
- 17 Sacha Baron Cohen film, 2006
- 18 Kid's jumping pole
- 20 Protagonist of a classic novel by 50-Across
- 22 U.S. anti-Vietnam War grp.
- 25 Ode opener
- 26 Soap actress Sofer
- 27 Political regime in a classic novel by 50-Across
- 33 Too risqué for kids' viewing
- 34 Treat a hide "but good"
- 35 Party drink for Alice
- 36 Caught congers
- 37 Canadian poet Fred
- 38 Reliever, as of pain
- 40 Chicoutimi chum
- 41 Bond creator Fleming
- 42 Baseball's Hank et al.
- 43 Workplace of 20-Across
- 47 Nearby, in poesy
- 48 "Isn't ___ bit like you and me?" (Beatles lyric)
- 49 Plaything
- 50 Author of the novel whose title is revealed in the circled letters, when read in order
- 55 Bearer of meringue pie fruit
- 56 Words before order or sight
- 60 Suffix with pan-
- 61 Partner of "poivre"
- 62 Original Can./U.S./Mex. treaty
- 63 Brown mushroom
- 64 Letter header?
- 65 Bills symbolized by €



Down

- 1 Point of calligraphy?
- 2 Lennon's middle name
- 3 It's on for Henri
- 4 "Vidi" in Caesar's boast
- 5 Chose a new heading
- 6 Tries to bite, as a puppy
- 7 Scads
- 8 Irish exclamation
- 9 Big name in small planes
- 10 "M*A*S*H" director Robert
- 11 CVI halved
- 12 Prefix meaning "milk"
- 13 Egyptian cross
- 19 ___ a million
- 21 Young bar-goer's concern, maybe
- 22 Watch without downloading
- 23 Opening notes?
- 24 Soviet dictator Joseph
- 28 Had a little lamb, say
- 29 ___ cost (no matter the price)
- 30 "Everybody knows your secret"
- 31 Dealt with
- 32 Like wetlands
- 37 Four-legged battle charger
- 38 Book a table for one, say
- 39 Touchdown at Trudeau: Abbr.
- 41 "Can ___ any weirder?!"
- 42 For ___ (not gratis)
- 44 Visiting Vatican City, maybe
- 45 Use the car blinker
- 46 "No matter"
- 50 Cling (onto)
- 51 Finnish architect Saarinen
- 52 Noted child soldier Khadr
- 53 Hook, line and sinker go-with
- 54 Hawaiian hootenanny
- 57 Tkt. for a connecting bus
- 58 Prefix meaning "ear"
- 59 23-Down followers

SUDOKU

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| 8 | | 7 | | 4 | | | | 2 |
| | 4 | | 5 | | 9 | | 8 | |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
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| 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
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| 14 | B | O | O | R | | 15 | R | A | M | O | N | | 16 | A | C | A | T | | | |
| 17 | A | F | T | E | | 18 | R | A | S | O | R | T | | 19 | G | A | M | Y | | |
| | | | | 20 | Y | O | U | | 21 | T | E | R | | 22 | M | I | N | A | L | |
| 23 | G | 24 | Y | M | | 26 | E | T | 27 | A | I | L | E | R | | 28 | A | R | I | |
| 29 | H | O | T | S | | 30 | | | 31 | M | O | E | | 32 | M | S | D | O | S | |
| 34 | I | S | N | T | | 35 | G | O | I | N | G | | 37 | T | O | W | A | S | H | |
| | | | | 38 | O | O | O | | | | | | 39 | W | O | E | | | | |
| 40 | L | E | A | V | E | H | I | G | H | A | N | D | 46 | D | R | 47 | Y | | | |
| 49 | A | X | L | E | S | | 50 | S | E | A | | | 51 | E | L | E | V | | | |
| 52 | U | P | A | | | 53 | I | R | O | N | M | | 55 | A | N | | 57 | R | N | R |
| 58 | N | O | M | I | | 59 | N | A | T | E | | | 60 | R | O | | 61 | | | |
| 62 | D | S | O | S | | 63 | C | O | R | N | E | R | | 65 | F | O | 66 | L | 67 | D |
| 68 | R | E | D | O | | 69 | E | P | I | C | S | | 70 | A | U | T | O | | | |
| 71 | Y | S | E | R | | 72 | S | E | C | C | O | | 73 | L | I | S | T | | | |

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Top 10 Questions Boomers Should Be Asking.

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Margie@haliburtonliving.ca

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 - Turn key setup and flexible closing



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- \$325,000 MCPHAIL ROAD**
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 - Trails along road allowance leading to centre of property
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- \$129,000 TUSK TRAIL**
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